

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 Previously Cancelled

1                   10. (Currently Amended) A stent-graft combination comprising a tubular stent  
2   having a plurality of separate and distinct hoops aligned adjacent one another along the axis of  
3   said ~~hoop~~-tubular stent, each of said separate and distinct hoops comprising a plurality of  
4   elongate elements, with pairs of said elongate elements meeting one another and forming  
5   vertices axially pointing in a direction along the axis of the stent, wherein at least some of said  
6   vertices axially abut and are individually connected to oppositely pointed vertices of elongate  
7   elements of an adjacent hoop, further including a tubular graft member disposed  
8   circumferentially adjacent the tubular stent.

1                   11. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2   said stent is comprised of a shape memory material.

1                   12. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2   said shape memory material is nitinol.

1                   13. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2   said stent is comprised of an elastic material.

1                   14. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2   said elastic material is stainless steel.

1                   15. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2   said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent.

1                   16. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10 wherein  
2   said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent and is attached to said stent by  
3   ligature loops.

1                   17. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 16, wherein  
2   said ligature loops also form connections between abutting apices of said stent.

1                   18. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2   the graft is disposed on the outer surface of the stent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1                      Claims 1-9 Previously Cancelled

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2                      10. (Currently Amended) A stent-graft combination comprising a tubular stent  
3                      having a plurality of separate and distinct hoops aligned adjacent one another along the axis of  
4                      said ~~hoop~~-tubular stent, each of said separate and distinct hoops comprising a plurality of  
5                      elongate elements, with pairs of said elongate elements meeting one another and forming  
6                      vertices axially pointing in a direction along the axis of the stent, wherein at least some of said  
7                      vertices axially abut and are individually connected to oppositely pointed vertices of elongate  
8                      elements of an adjacent hoop, further including a tubular graft member disposed  
9                      circumferentially adjacent the tubular stent.

1                      11. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2                      said stent is comprised of a shape memory material.

1                      12. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2                      said shape memory material is nitinol.

1                      13. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2                      said stent is comprised of an elastic material.

1                      14. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2                      said elastic material is stainless steel.

1                      15. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2                      said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent.

1                      16. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10 wherein  
2                      said graft covers diamond shaped openings in said stent and is attached to said stent by  
3                      ligature loops.

1                      17. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 16, wherein  
2                      said ligature loops also form connections between abutting apices of said stent.

1                      18. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2                      the graft is disposed on the outer surface of the stent.

1 19. (Previously Added) A stent-graft combination according to claim 10, wherein  
2 the graft is disposed on the inner surface of the stent.

1 20. (Previously Added) A stent according to claim 10, wherein said graft  
2 member including a drug substance disposed thereon.

1 21. (Previously Added) A stent according to claim 10, wherein said graft  
2 comprises polyester or polytetrafluoroethylene.

1 22. (Previously Added) A method of reinforcing a body vessel using a tubular  
2 sheath disposed between an entry location in a body and an implantation location, said method  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 a. providing stent-graft combination as recited in claim 10;

5 b. compressing the stent-graft combination into its compressed  
6 configuration;

7 c. inserting the compressed stent-graft combination into the tubular sheath;

8 d. delivering the compressed stent-graft combination through the tubular  
9 sheath to the implantation location; and

10 e. withdrawing the sheath while holding the stent at the implantation  
11 location within the vessel and expanding the stent-graft combination within the implantation  
12 location as the sheath is withdrawn by permitting the self-expandable stent-graft combination,  
13 as the constraint of the sheath is removed, to return to said expanded configuration;

14 whereby the stent-graft combination is securely disposed in the implanted state  
15 against said body vessel.

1 23. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the stent of  
2 said stent-graft combination is comprised of a shape memory material.

1 24. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 23, wherein said shape  
2 memory material is nitinol.

1                   25. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the stent of  
2 said stent-graft combination is comprised of an elastic material.

1                   26. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 25, wherein said elastic  
2 material is stainless steel.

1                   27. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 24, wherein step b is  
2 performed at a reduced temperature such that the nitinol is not elastic.

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1                   28. (Previously Added) Method of implanting a prosthesis at an implementation  
2 site in a body lumen comprising providing a stent graft combination as recited in claim 10, said  
3 stent-graft combination having first and second configurations the diameter of said stent or  
4 prosthesis in said first configuration being smaller than in said second configuration, said  
5 method comprising introducing said stent or prosthesis, while in its first configuration into a  
6 body lumen in communication with said implantation site but remote therefrom, transporting  
7 said stent-graft combination to said implantation site and causing or permitting said stent-graft  
8 combination to assume its second configuration, whereby it is retained at said implantation site.

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